

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTO 04287 041801Z
ACTION ARA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5581

UNCLAS SANTO DOMINGO 4287

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR VIEWS ON POSSIBLE AID SUPPORT FOR HEMIS-
PHERE-WIDE SYMPOSIUM ON DEVELOPMENT

REF: STATE A-2604

1. FOLLOWING ARE EMBASSY/USAID/DR VIEWS ON QUESTIONS POSED IN
REFAIR, WHICH SOUGHT RESPONSES BY 7/30 BUT ARRIVED SD 7/31.

2. NEED FOR SUCH A FORUM IS OPEN TO QUESTION. MOST ECONOMIC/TRADE
DEVELOPMENT ISSUES HAVE AT LEAST ONE INTERNATIONAL FORUM FOR DIS-
CUSSION, THOUGH THESE FORUMS ARE OFTEN POLITICIZED, LIMITING
DEGREE OF SUBSTANTIVE INTERCHANGE. THE KEY QUESTIONS ARE THERE-
FORE WHETHER THE SPECIFIC TOPICS TO BE DEALT WITHIN THE ECLA GROUP
ARE ADEQUATELY COVERED ELSEWHERE, AND IN THOSE INSTANCES WHERE
EXISTING FORUMS ARE TOO POLITICAL FOR SUBSTANTIVE PROGRESS, DOES
THE USG WISH TO ACCEPT THIS AS AN UNAVOIDABLE FACT AND SEEK
SUBSTANTIVE DIALOGUE IN OTHER, NEW FORUMS SUCH AS BEING PROPOSED
BY ECLA.

3. USAID/DR HAS SERIOUS DOUBTS ABOUT THE UTILITY FOR AID/LAC
TO SPONSOR A REGIONAL PROJECT ALONG THE LINES DESCRIBED IN
IGLESIAS AIDE MEMOIRE TO CULBERTON. WHEREVER AID MISSIONS ECIST,
THERE IS USUALLY AN OPEN AND PRODUCTIVE INTERCHANGE BETWEEN HOST
COUNTRY ECONOMISTS AND SECTORAL SPECIALISTS ON A PERSONAL BASIS
OR AT VARIOUS MEETINGS AND FORUMS DEVELOPED BY THE HOST COUNTRY.
WITH REGARD TO PARTICULAR PROBLEMS WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF AID
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OBJECTIVES, USAID'S AND THE HOST GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS CONCERNED
USUALLY PROGRAM SEMINARS, WORK SHOPS OR CONFERENCES TO ADDRESS
THEM. IN ADDITION, THERE ARE COUNTLESS INTERCOUNTRY CONFERENCES
IN WHICH LOCAL USAID'S ARE INVOLVED AND TO WHICH PROFESSIONALS
FROM OTHER COUNTRIES AND OTHER USAID'S ARE INVITED. THERE DOES
NOT APPEAR TO BE A NEED FOR AN ECLA PRESENCE IN THIS CONTEXT.

4. RE USG FINANCIAL SUPPORT, WE FIND IT DIFFICULT TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSITION THAT THE USG SHOULD PROVIDE IN EFFECT A UNILATERAL BUDGET SUPPORT GRANT TO CEPAL, FOR A LONG-TERM ACTIVITY.

5. THIS PROPOSAL MIGHT BE FURTHER EXPLORED AND REFINED AT THE NEXT ECLA MEETING WITH A VIEW TO HOLDING AN INITIAL SESSION ON A ONE-TIME BASIS, RESERVING JUDGMENT ON THE PROGRAM'S UTILITY (AND THEREFORE THE DESIRABILITY OF ITS CONTINUATION ON A REGULAR BASIS) PENDING THE RESULTS OF THE INITIAL SESSION.

6. ALTERNATIVELY, USAID/DR SUGGESTS THAT CEPAL MAKE A SPECIFIC PROPOSAL FOR A SPECIFIC CONFERENCE AND THEN GET FIELD REACTION TO IT. IF THERE S A POSITIVE RESPONSE, THEN THAT SINGLE CONFERENCE MIGHT BE FINANCED.
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